

Universal Design


Design for a Lifetime

Seattle-King County Aging and Disability
Services


Advisory Council
Housing Task Force



What is Universal Design?

 The design of products and environments to be useable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation or specialized design.

Where Can Universal Design be Used?

 Universal Design can be implemented in any setting including:

- Kitchen Gadgets
- Tools
- Technology and Computer Programs
- Housing
- Offices
- Public Spaces

Who Benefits from Universal Design?

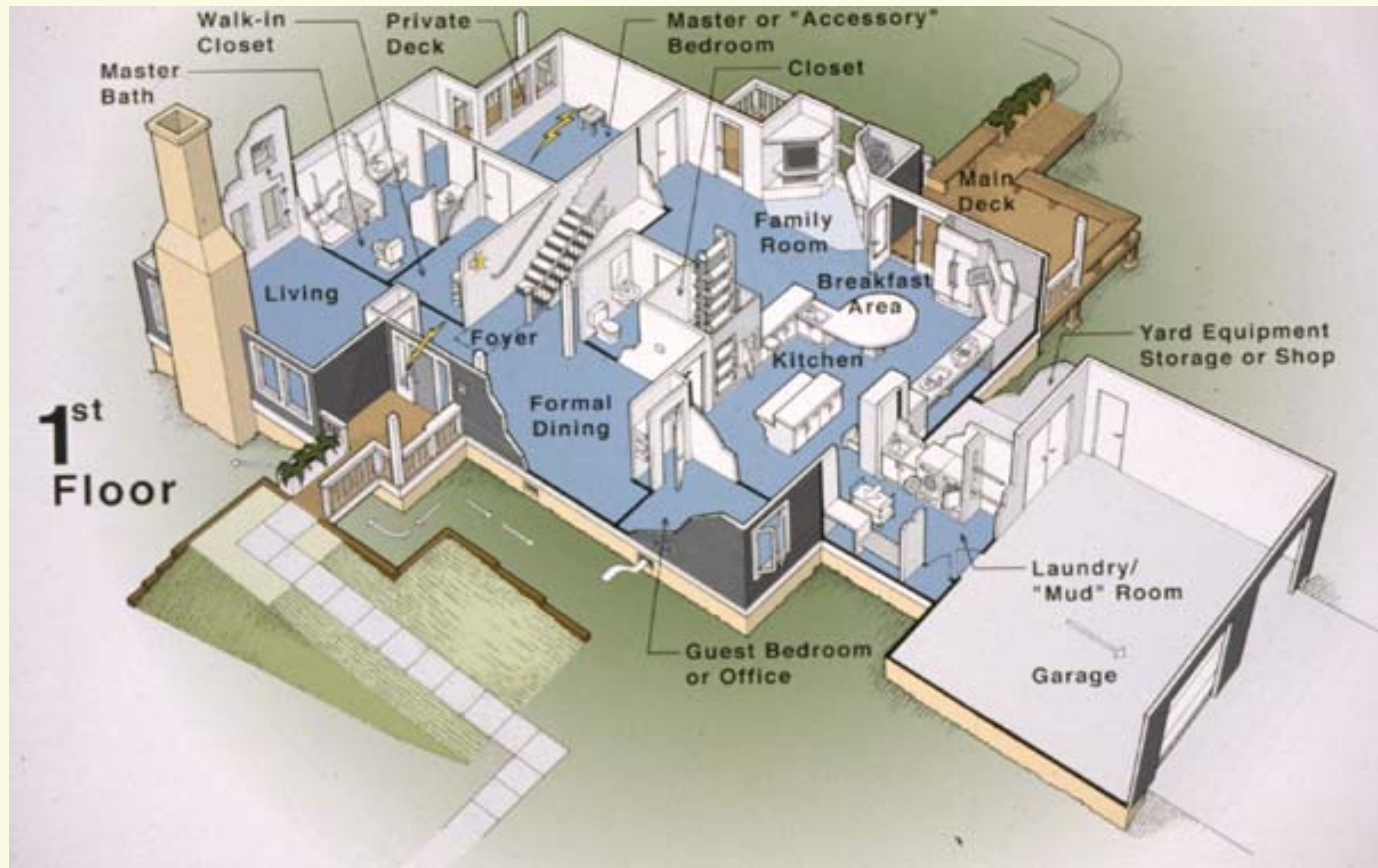
☞ Universal Design fits all users regardless of

- Age
- Height
- Skill
- Physical Functioning

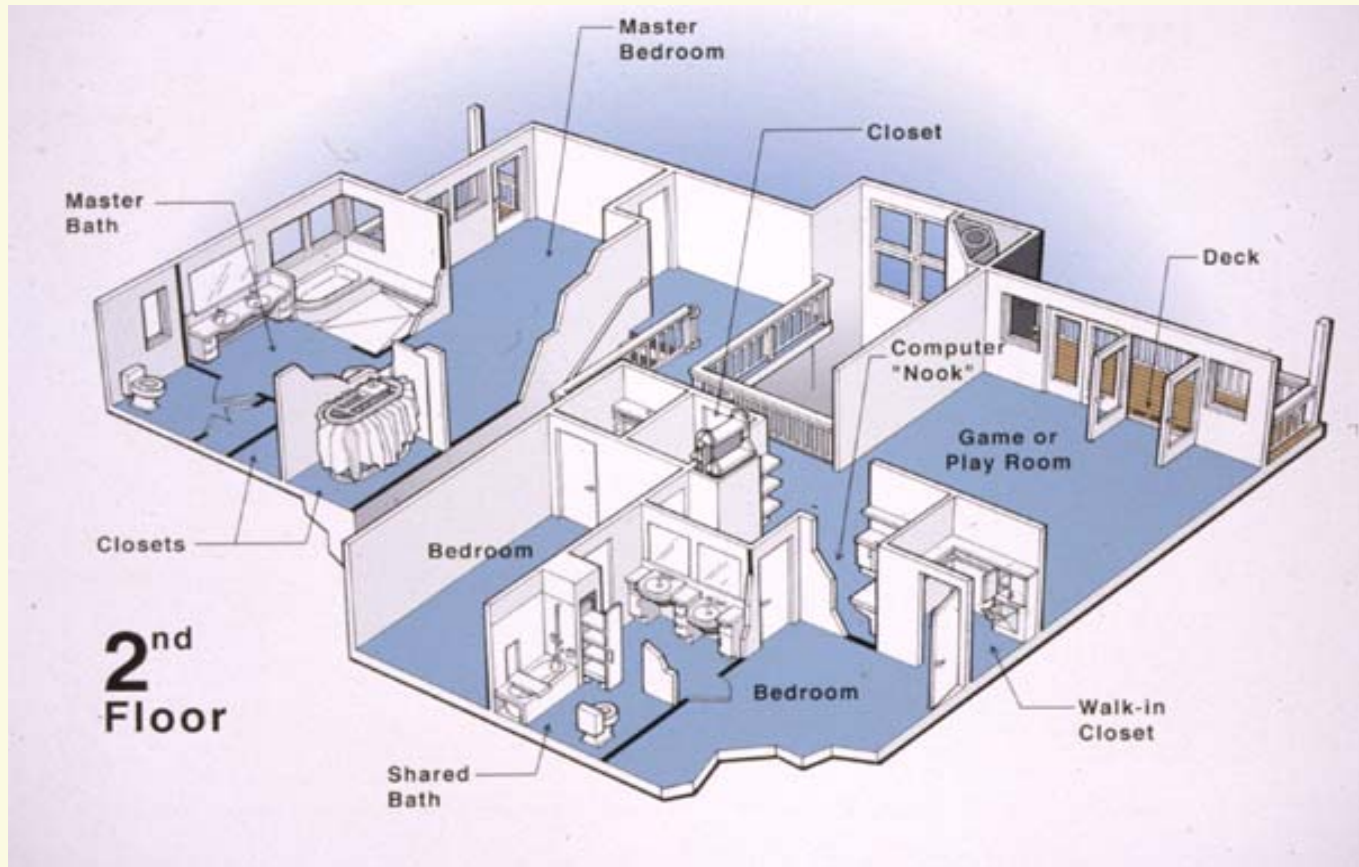


☞ Universal Design Benefits **EVERYONE!**

The Universal Home






The Universal Home



Principle 1:

Equitable Use:


-  The design is useful and marketable to any group of users
-  Avoids segregating or stigmatizing users
-  The design is appealing to all users

Equitable Use:



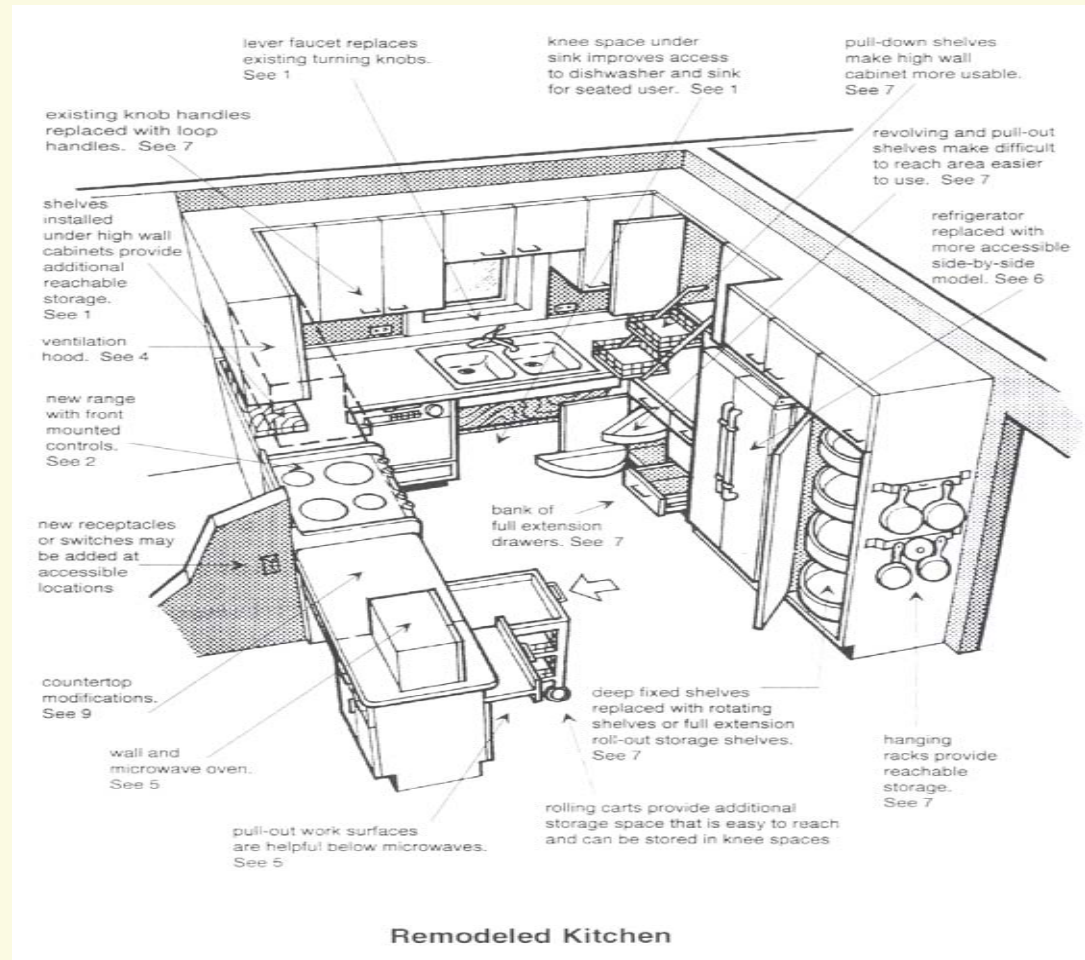
Principle 2:

Flexibility in Use:

-  The design accommodates a wide range of individual preferences and abilities




Flexibility in Use

The Universally Designed Kitchen




Principle 3:

Simple and Intuitive Use:

-  Eliminates unnecessary complexity
-  Is consistent with user expectations and intuition
-  Accommodates a wide range of literacy and language skills

Principle 4:

Perceptible Information:




 The design communicates necessary information effectively to the user, regardless of ambient conditions or the user's sensory abilities

Perceptible Information:



Principle 5:

Tolerance for Error:





-  The design minimizes hazards and the adverse consequences of accidental or unintended actions
-  The design provides warnings of hazards or errors
-  The design provides “fail safe” features

Tolerance For Error:

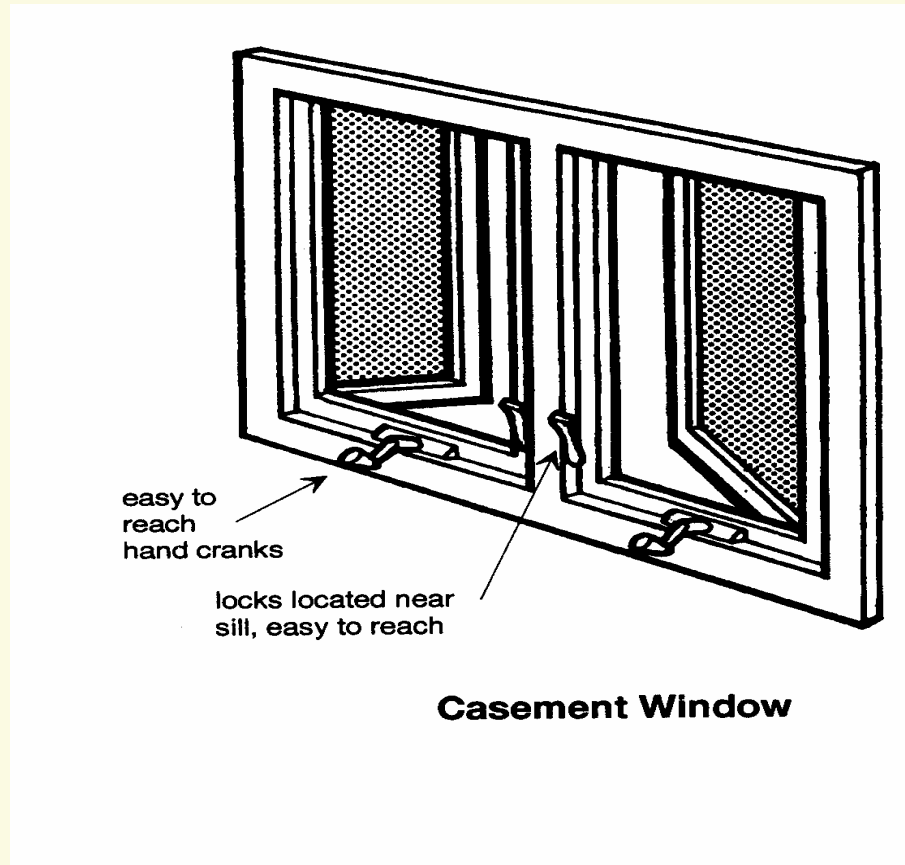


Principle 6:

Low Physical Effort:

-  Allows the user to maintain a neutral body position
-  Uses reasonable operating forces
-  Minimizes repetitive actions
-  Minimizes sustained physical efforts

Principle 6 Example: Low Physical Effort



Principle 6: Low Physical Effort







Lever Door Knobs



Principle 7:

Size and Space for Approach and Use:

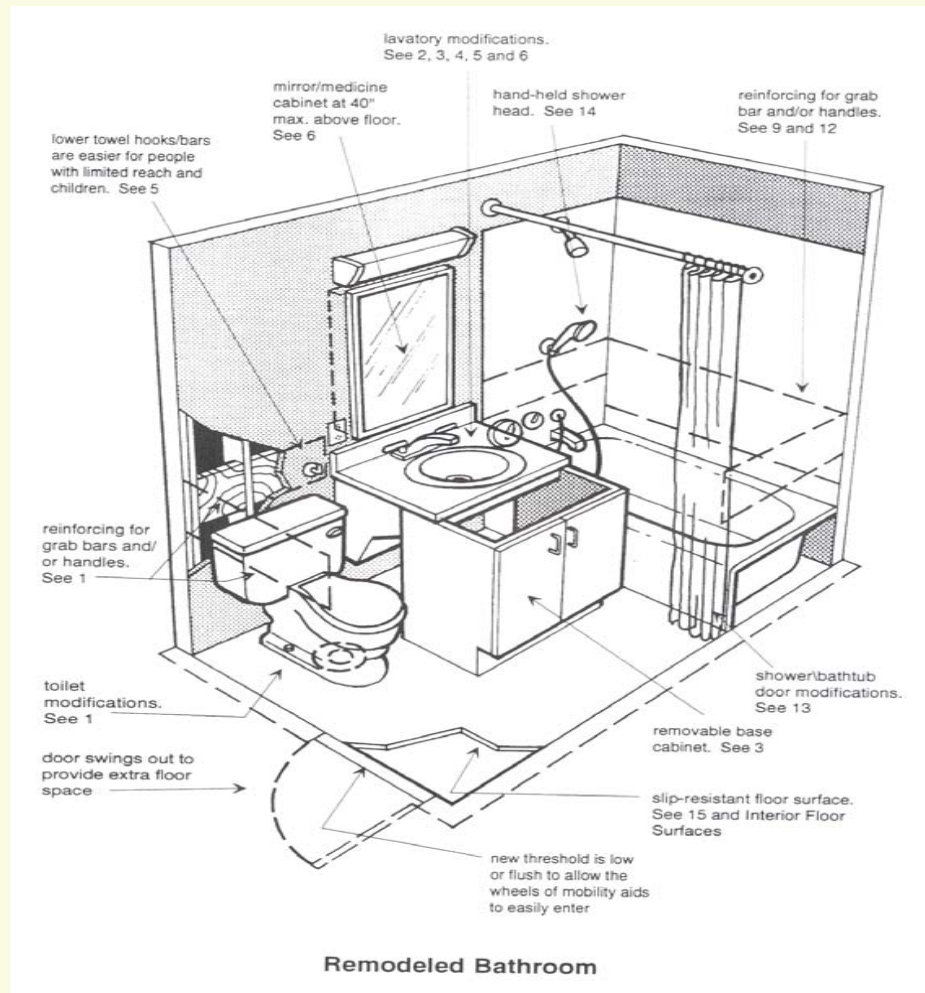
-  Provides a clear line of sight to important elements for any seated or standing user
-  Makes reach to all components comfortable
-  Accommodates variations in hand and grip size
-  Provides adequate space for the use of assistive devices or personal assistance

Size and Space for Approach and Use

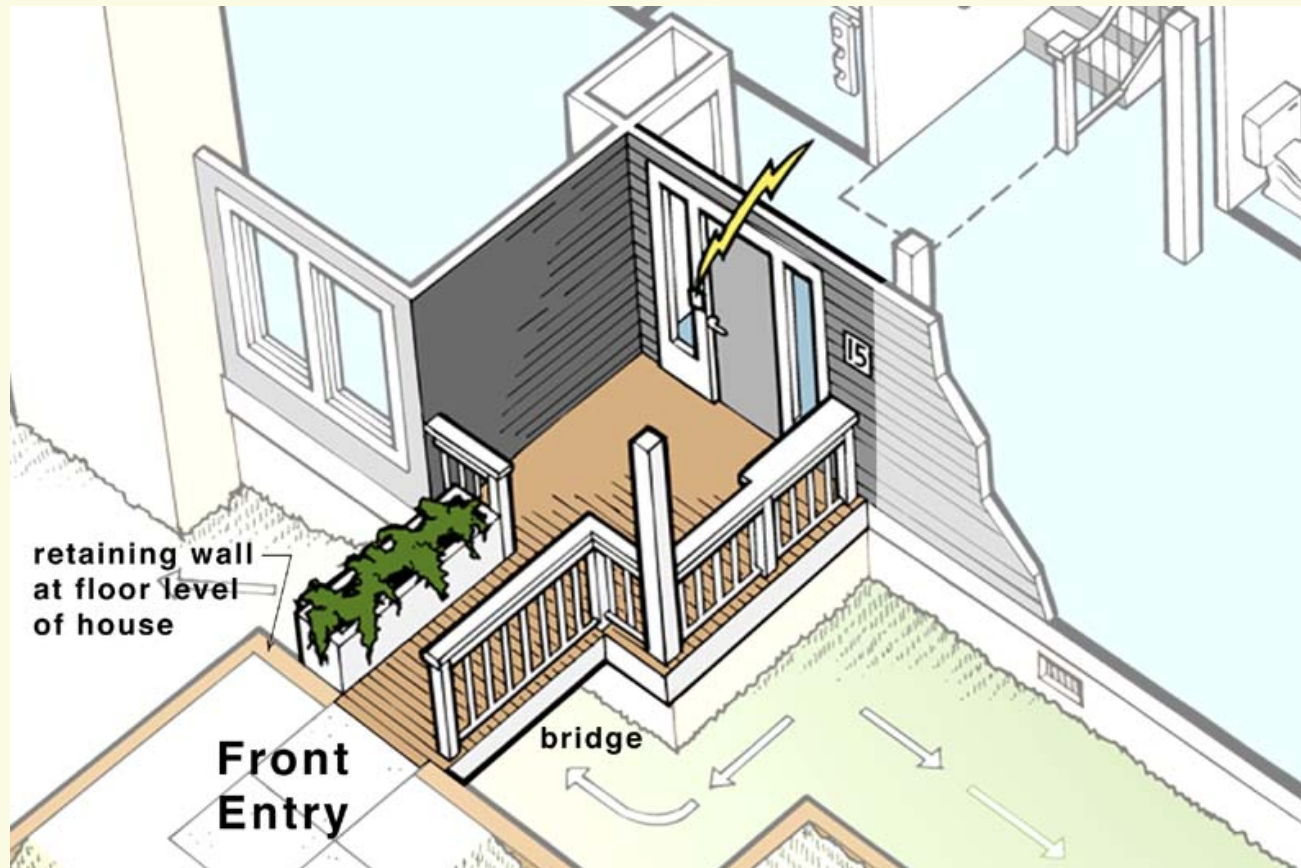




Universal Design in the Bathroom



Universal Design: Entryway



Universal Laundry Room

